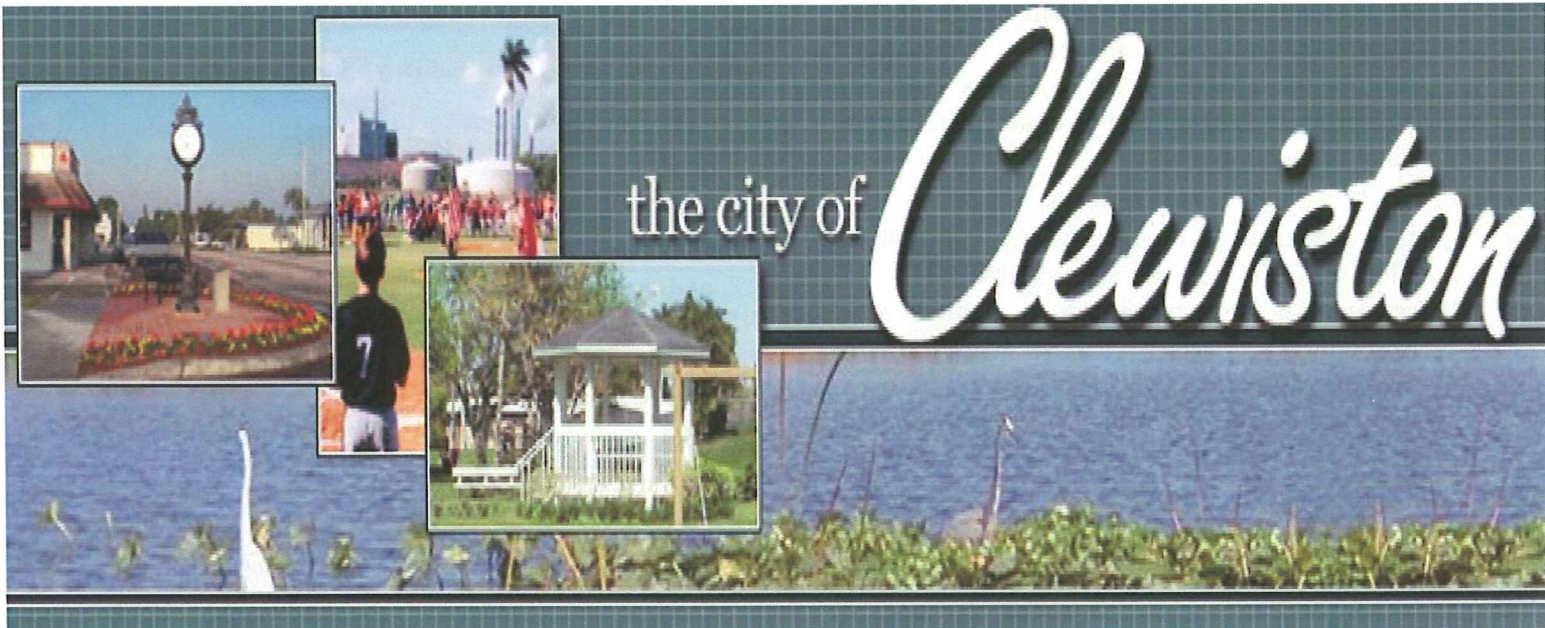


City of Clewiston

New Resident Information Guide



Welcome to Our Town

Welcome to our Town

Clewiston, historically known as **America's Sweetest Town**, was incorporated in 1925 and occupies 4.57 square miles with a population of approximately 6,900 people. Clewiston is centrally located in south Florida about 60 miles east of Fort Myers on the Gulf of Mexico and 60 miles west of Palm Beach on the Atlantic Ocean. Through more than a half-century of growth, Clewiston has kept its charm and beauty. We are the Gateway to Lake Okeechobee.

It is our goal to provide you, a resident of Clewiston, the best service possible. This directory has been published to acquaint you with all the services our City facilities and employees can provide you. Whether you are a new or a long-time resident, we hope you will find this booklet useful.

If you don't find what you need to know in this directory, just call us at (863) 983-1500 and we will assist you. Also, City information can be found on our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov. If you have any comments or suggestions about this booklet or any City service, please call the Community Development office at (863) 983-1500. It is important we hear from you, whether to let us know we can do something better or let us know the things you appreciate so we might expand upon them.

We are your City, working for you.

Sincerely,
City Commission & Staff

Area Code is: (863)

⇒ **Police /Fire Emergency:** Dial 9-1-1

⇒ **Electricity:** Provided by City of Clewiston

141 Central Avenue 983-1454

FPL (outside city limits) 800-226-3545

⇒ **Propane:**

Glades Gas Co. 309 E Sugarland Hwy 983-8111

⇒ **Water/Sewer Service:** Provided by City of Clewiston

141 Central Avenue 983-1454

South Shore Water 1454A E Sugarland Hwy 983-2323

⇒ **Trash/Garage:** Provided by City of Clewiston

1300 South Olympia Avenue 983-1471

⇒ **Telephone Service:**

CenturyLink Residential: 800-362-2772

Commercial: 800-300-9464

⇒ **Cable/Satellite TV:**

Comcast 866-683-1000

Directv 800-866-3008

Dish Network 800- 200-3102

⇒ **Grocery Stores:**

Sav-A-Lot 900 W Sugarland Hwy 983-6410

Wal-Mart 1005 W Sugarland Hwy 983-4844

⇒ **Pharmacies:**

CVS 520 W Sugarland Hwy 983-1011

Walgreen's 300 W Sugarland Hwy 983-2077

K & M Drugs 340 E Sugarland Hwy 983-7277

Wal-Mart 1005 W Sugarland Hwy 983-8756

⇒ **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV):**

1100 S Olympia 983-1460

⇒ **Post Office:**

400 S Berner Road 983-8570

⇒ **Voter Registration:**

1100 S Olympia 983-1592

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City Commission

The elected officials who serve as the Clewiston City Commission are a dedicated group of people with great pride for their community. The Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Commissioners are the governing body of the City. They set policies and rules by which the City is operated, including establishing goals and targeting issues as well as setting the tax rates.

Members of the City Commission are elected at-large and elections are held during the Hendry County General Election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year. At each election, three commissioners are elected; the two candidates receiving the highest vote total are elected for a four-year term and the third candidate is elected for a two-year term. Commission candidates must be registered voters of the City and must have resided within the corporate limits for one year at the time of election qualification, and if elected, continue to reside within the City during their full term of office.

During the first regular meeting in December of each general election year, the City Commission holds an Organizational Meeting and from their number appoints by majority vote, the Mayor and Vice Mayor. The Mayor is recognized as the head of government for all ceremonial purposes. The Vice Mayor shall serve in the absence of the Mayor.

Regular Commission meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the city hall commission chambers, 115 West Ventura Avenue. Workshops are held on the Thursday preceding the Monday commission meeting. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Mayor or by a majority of the Commission.

If you have an issue you wish to discuss at a city commission meeting, submit a written request to be included on the next commission meeting's agenda. Direct your request to City Clerk Marilyn McCorvey at marilyn.mccorvey@clewiston-fl.gov or telephone (863) 983-1484.

CITY COMMISSION

Richard Miller, Mayor

James Pittman, Vice Mayor

Mali Gardner, Commissioner

Joseph Miller, Commissioner

Julio Rodriquez, Commissioner



City Hall

City Hall:

Located at: 115 West Ventura Avenue, 983-1484

City Manager Steve McKown is responsible for overall city operations. City administration and finance staff members include City Clerk Marilyn McCorvey, Finance Director Ted Byrd, Finance Manager Shari Howell, Finance Specialist Laurie Lindsey and Finance Specialist Kathy Combass.

City Manager:

Contact City Manager

Contact the Mayor or Commissioners

Commission preliminary agenda

City Clerk:

Commission meeting information

City records & documents

Bids

Website

Finance:

Accounts Payable/Receivable

Budget

Payroll

Worker's Compensation

Human Resources:

Employment Opportunities

City Manager Steve McKown is a graduate of Valdosta State University with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He is a Certified Public Accountant with over 15 years of governmental experience, including his years of auditing local governments. He soon found his passion for public administration and utilities management. Steve is a very hands-on manager, so you are sure to see him out and about in the community.



Community Development

Community Development:

Located at: 121 Central Avenue, 983-1500

The Community Development Department is accountable for protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents, citizens, and inhabitants of the City of Clewiston through city ordinances, building codes, fire protection codes and land use regulations. The Community Development Department is organized into four divisions:

- Planning and Zoning
- Building and Permitting
- Code Enforcement
- Fire code inspections

The Community Development Director is Travis Reese, Karen Moore is the Office Manager, Debbi Towner is the Planning Assistant, Pete Garcia is the City Code Enforcement Officer and Adam Marquith is the Fire Marshal.



Planning & Zoning:

- Comprehensive Plan
- Development & Zoning information
- Property Variances & Special Exceptions
- Business Tax Receipts & Liens

Building Department:

- New construction
- Commercial/Residential
- Fences—Swimming pools
- Remodeling—Additions
- Electrical, Plumbing & Mechanical
- Garage Sales permits

Acquiring a permit helps assure the property owner that construction conforms to the regulatory and safety requirements of the City of Clewiston and the State of Florida. As construction progresses, the Building Official will make scheduled inspections to document compliance.

Code Enforcement:

- Private property nuisances & housing code violations
- Yard maintenance and overgrown weeds and trash
- Rental inspections (minimum housing & building maintenance standards)
- General code complaints
- Illegal signs in the City's rights-of-way or on utility poles

This division is responsible for the enforcement of the City of Clewiston's Code of Ordinances, usually concerning safety, appearance and zoning regulations.

Public Safety—Police

Police Department:

Located at: 205 West Ventura Avenue, 983-1474

Key staff members responsible for all law enforcement and security in the city are Chief of Police Don Gutshall and Captain Kristine Petersen.

- **EMERGENCY 9-1-1**
- **Non-Emergency 983-1474**
 - Call for service**
 - Noise Ordinance violation**
 - Traffic issues**



The Clewiston Police Department fields a force of thirty full-time employees. The Department boasts a Community Policing Unit, Two (2) K-9 Units, a five-member dive team, Communications Division, and a three-member CID that fields its own certified Crime Scene Technician. The department includes a three-member bicycle team as well. All members have access to the latest technology to assist them with their law enforcement duties. The Clewiston Police Auxiliary provides the valuable support of volunteer sworn officers to city-wide enforcement efforts.

The Department operates under the direction of Chief Don Gutshall and Assistant Chief Kristine Petersen. The Police Department serves a moderately high density area of 4.57 square miles with more than 7,000 permanent residents and a large number of seasonal residents. Another 7,000-8,000 people live within one mile of the municipal limits.

The City is located geographically on the shores of Lake Okeechobee. Due to the waterfront and many miles of canals within the city, it is necessary for the Department to maintain a boat to undertake marine events and coordinates enforcement and rescue efforts with the Coast Guard, Clewiston Fire Department, and Hendry County Sheriff's Office.

The **Police Explorer** program assists the community in events such as presenting the national and state Colors as well as provides for an excellent venue for our youth to "learn by doing" in the field of law enforcement. We have a vibrant program of 20+ fully uniformed, outfitted and active members.

*Feel free to come by or call for information.
We are always glad to answer your questions.*

Public Safety—Fire

Fire Department:

Station Located at: 120 Comercio Street

Administration at: 121 Central Avenue

Key staff members responsible for all safety and emergency activities in the city are Fire Chief Rob Hunton, Assistant Chief Edwin Langford and Fire Marshal Adam Marquith.

- **EMERGENCY 9-1-1**
- **Non-Emergency 983-1499**
 - Burning permits**
 - Fire code enforcement**
 - Fire Station tour**
 - Hazardous Waste**
 - Hurricane & Disaster planning**



The Clewiston Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1945, with twelve members and one truck. Today, the Fire Department has twenty-two (22) volunteers and a modern fleet of firefighting trucks and equipment.

The Department maintains one station, built in 1998, seconds away from U.S. Highway 27.

This station houses four (4) class A pumpers, two (2) rescue, two (2) brush trucks and two (2) command vehicles. The Clewiston Fire Department covers approximately 298 square miles. This is the largest of the five (5) Hendry County stations.

The firemen receive extensive training that includes Fire Fighting, Hazardous Materials, Emergency Medical Training (EMT), First Responder and Rescue Extraction.

Call Community Development at 983-1500 about educational programs such as fire safety and prevention, emergency evacuations, fire extinguisher use and CPR training through the American Heart Association.

If you want to arrange a tour of the fire station, call the Fire Marshal, Adam Marquith, at 983-1499.

Golf Course

Golf Course:

Located at: 1201 San Luiz Avenue, 983-1448

Enjoy our championship 18-hole golf course.

Director of Golf, Adolfo Pena, has been the Director of Golf since 2000. Mr. Pena, Golf Course Superintendent Ronnie Ford, and Grounds Supervisor Joey Guasp, along with Mr. Pena's other professional staff take great pride in keeping the Golf Course in immaculate condition - making it an outstanding year-round golfing experience.



Highlights:

Located just a pleasant unhurried hour's drive from Fort Myers or West Palm Beach, and merely minutes away from U.S. Highway 27, is the Clewiston Golf Course, a beautifully maintained championship 18-hole golf course that is open to the public. Today, golfers can enjoy the same beautiful scenery and challenges golfers experienced in the 1930's. Designed in the great Donald Ross style, the course is a classic and a joy to play. Amenities such as restaurants or lodging at the historic Clewiston Inn or other well-known chain motels are less than ten minutes away. This is a favorite course for many fishermen as they can enjoy the renowned bass fishing on Lake Okeechobee and still have time to enjoy a relaxing game of golf with their friends all in one day.

History:

The course was established in 1929, opened for play on Sunday, February 23, 1929, for a fifty-cent daily fee, or for two dollars per month, the whole family could play. The original course was designed by Stiles and Van Kleeck, golf architects of New York, NY and St. Petersburg, FL, and Captain Deane Duff, general manager of the Clewiston Company, under whose direction the then-new course was constructed. The Clewiston Company was to become the United States Sugar Corporation.

A five-hole course had already been in use at the Clewiston Civic Center Park in downtown Clewiston while the construction was being completed.

The Clewiston News, dated Friday, February 21, 1930, stated that an important feature of the announcement of the opening of the new course was that the nominal green fees had been established to make it possible for everyone in the community to enjoy the course.

Animal Control

Animal Control:

Located at: 410 Arroyo Avenue, 983-1474

The Animal Control Division consists of two full-time animal control officers. Kathy Radcliffe is the senior officer. Kimberly Peeno is our newest Animal Control Officer. They are both eager to help you with animal problems. A new "State-of-the-Art" Animal Control Facility, built in 2008 is located on Arroyo Avenue. If you need to speak to the officers, call the Clewiston Police Department at 863-983-1474.



Basic Pet Ownership Regulations

All domestic animals must have a rabies shot before a license is issued by your veterinarian.

The officers enforce the City's leash law and pet owners will be cited and/or fined for allowing their animals to run loose. Animals that have been picked up may be redeemed Mondays through Fridays. No animals will be released on the weekends.

The City's Code of Ordinances, Article 1, Sec. 14-4 prohibits animals from creating a nuisance, disturbing the peace, or infringing on the rights of adjoining neighbors.

If you adopt a pound pet, the animal must have a rabies shot and be spayed or neutered before it is released. The Friends of Animals can help offset the cost if you are unable to pay.

The Friends of Animals will help you to pay for neutering or spaying your pet. The procedures are regularly scheduled for Fridays, but special appointments can be made during the week. Animals less than six months old can get the procedure performed at the Humane Society in LaBelle.

Find the love of your life through pet companionship! The Caloosa Humane Society can help you find the perfect pet. Log onto www.dogncat.petfinder.net or email Shelter Director Suzanne Bonnell at dogncat@earthlink.net.

The Shelter is located at 1200 Pratt Boulevard in LaBelle, and the telephone number is 863-675-0997. The Shelter offers discounted prices for spaying and neutering services for those in financial need. Donations are gladly accepted and greatly needed!

Recreation

Leisure Services:

Director of Recreation, Lance Ramer, has overall responsibility for operation of the City's parks and recreation facilities. Among the City's outstanding recreation resources are the Sugarland Sports Complex with nine ball fields, three soccer fields and three racquet ball courts. The youth center, pool, John Boy Auditorium and multiple other city parks are also available to serve the city's recreation needs.

Ball Fields:

Located on Sonora Avenue, 983-1492

- Field and Racquetball reservations

Recreation:

Located at: 110 West Osceola Avenue, 983-1492

- Boat ramps
- Facility rentals
- Parks
- Swimming & Tennis lessons
- Summer Camps
- Sports Camps



One of the highlights of the department is summer camp, which provides camp activities for children ages 5 - 11, and swimming lessons for children over 5 years of age.

Take a look at the many things the Clewiston Recreation Department has to offer. There is something for everyone, regardless of age or interest.

We are pleased to offer something for everyone - from the water park for toddlers to the senior citizens' monthly luncheon/meeting.

Retired? Then, join the Senior Citizens for a covered dish luncheon on the third Monday of the month. Every Monday, the seniors meet for a friendly game of cards from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

More adult activities include the Clewiston Garden Club which meets every third Thursday at 9:30 a.m., and the Red Cross Task Force that gets together on the third Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

There's plenty of activities for the kids, too. Come to the Youth Center Game Room. It's open weekdays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

If you are looking for a place to party, then consider renting the youth center on Saturday afternoons. The rental is reasonable and it has kitchen facilities.

Take a look at the many things the Clewiston Recreation Department has to offer. Call for more information, reservations, and/or fees.

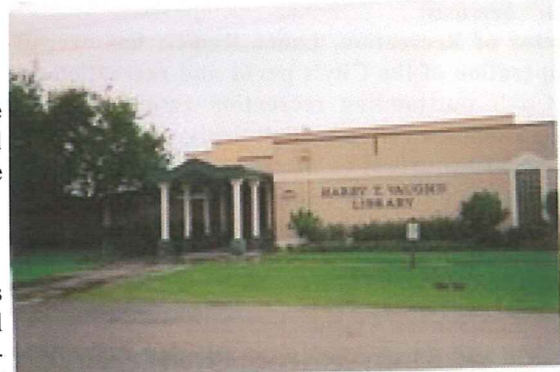


Library

Library:

Located at: 126 West Osceola Avenue, 983-1493

Library Director Eric Tommerdahl, is responsible for the day to day operations of the Clewiston Public Library and welcomes visitors of all ages to take advantage of what the Library has to offer.



History

It was on January 15, 1941, that the Clewiston Public Library was born. Mayor F. Deane Duff and the City Commission requested the Garden Club, as a civic organization, to assume the responsibility for organizing and operating the library in a rented area of the U.S. Sugar Corporation's administrative building. The Club voted overwhelmingly to undertake the library project and a committee was soon appointed. With a \$100 donation from Mayor Duff, the members secured the services of Moore Haven High School Librarian, Miss Hazel Humble, to catalog the books according to the Dewey Decimal System. Every Saturday and Sunday for three months, Miss Humble and her two assistants worked eight-hour days. On Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5, 1941, the library was open for public inspection and browsing, and on Monday, April 7, the first books were issued to the patrons.

After several moves and the formation of the Library Association in June 1952, the Library moved to its permanent home in 1967. A furnishing drive spearheaded by two ambitious and creative volunteers, Greg Esser and Dr. L. G. Vaughan, and the equally tremendous response and enthusiasm of literally hundreds of interested citizens provided the funds to furnish the now named Harry T. Vaughn Library.

By 1992, the City Commission was contemplating adding onto the well-used facility and, in 1993, with \$400,000 in state and federal grants, \$250,000 from the City of Clewiston, \$20,000 from Hendry County, \$100,000 from the United States Sugar Corporation, and \$57,510 from private donations, the City retained the engineering firm of Gee & Jenson and the construction company, Innovative Builders, Inc., to begin construction. The groundbreaking was held on June 1, 1993, and the grand opening on May 16, 1994. Mayor Perry was absolutely right when he said, "Clewiston is going to have a wonderful library, a facility of which we all can be proud."

In 2008, Mayor Mali Gardner and Congressional Aide Valerie Guenther awarded certificates to PRIME TIME participants for their attendance at the six week bilingual family reading time sessions at the Clewiston Library.

Library Board

The library is a department of the City of Clewiston and is administered by a seven-member volunteer board.

The library staff is committed to providing the community with a variety of resources, including fiction and non-fiction reading material, books on tape, videocassettes, and informational resources for reference and homework needs. The library currently has a collection of 121,811 titles. The library also offers a variety of cookbooks and gardening manuals.

Obtaining a library card

There is no lower age limit for applying for a library card from the Clewiston Public Library. As long as one can print their first and last name, you may apply. Children under 14 require a parent to sign their application. Children over 14 and adults may apply for a library card by showing picture identification, such as a driver's license.

Library, cont.

Check-Out Policies

- Patrons under the age of 18 have a limit of 6 items they may check out at one time.
- For those over 18, there is a limit of 24 items that may be checked out by a family at one time.
- Most books, paperbacks, audio tapes, and CD's are three week loans.
- Patrons can renew materials by telephone.
- Renewals are allowed for one additional loan period, unless the item is on hold or the loan type of the item does not permit renewals.

Overdue fines

- 3 week items - 5 cents per day per item.

Placing books on hold

Does someone else have the book you're looking for? You can ask the library staff to reserve the book, and we will call you when the item has been returned and is available.

New books arrive at least once weekly and sometimes two or more times. If you have a favorite author, tell the library staff. They will keep up with new books coming out by your favorite authors, order them, and notify you when they arrive. This goes for adults as well as children.

Need a computer?

The library has nine computers with Internet capability. Computers are available on a first-come first-serve basis. But first you must read the Library's computer rules, then sign on the back of the application card that you will abide by them. You may sign up to use a computer for 30 minutes at a time. If no one is waiting, you may use the computer for a longer period of time.

Want to arrange a tour?

Mr. Tommerdahl and his staff encourage teachers to schedule a library tour. They enjoy students visiting the library and seeing what it has to offer. Call the library at 863-983-1493 to schedule a visit.

Want to volunteer?

Volunteer opportunities are available. By sharing your time and talent with us, you can make a big difference in your community.

Other Resources

Florida Electronic Library - open a new path to learning. Use this site for current events, business, health issues, homework help, finding full-text articles, and Florida history and information.

Eric Tommerdahl, Library Director
120 West Osceola Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440
Telephone 863-983-1493
Fax 863-983-9194
Email: eric.tommerdahl@clewiston-fl.gov



Public Works

Public Works:

Located at: 1300 South Olympia Street, 983-1471

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler and Public Works Superintendent Michael Young are responsible for garbage and trash collection, street and sidewalk construction and maintenance, drainage problems, and street signs.

- Appliance pickup
- Drainage problems
- Garbage or Trash collection
- Residential or Commercial
- Right-of-way obstruction
- Sidewalk maintenance
- Street maintenance
- Street Sign maintenance
- Street flooding
- Yard waste



Hurricane Wilma in October 2005 destroyed the city facility which housed Public Works and the Purchasing warehouse. In 2008 a brand new 14,654 square foot facility was constructed and named the M. Franklyn Jones Operations Building.

The Public Works Department maintains the City's streets, sidewalks, and drainage system. The Department is also responsible for the collection of garbage and trash. Other responsibilities include installing and replacing street signs, vehicle repair and maintenance, and keeping the City's rights-of-way mowed and the streets swept.

In 2008, the Public Works Department implemented a fully automated residential garbage collection system utilizing a one person collection operation and providing each residential customer a standardized garbage receptacle. With the system in full operation, an overall cost reduction of 50% has been realized. This savings stabilized the solid waste division and insured no rate increases in the near future.

The Public Works Department is consistently upgrading the City's infrastructure. Yearly projects include the installation of new sidewalks and the asphalt overlay of various streets in town. The most recent project was the Ventura Avenue Re-development Phase I. Drainage, raised median and landscaping were elements in this project that pumped new life into the area. The new system will eliminate the flooding problems that traditionally occur in this area during the rainy season.

21 dedicated employees work in the Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department is committed to providing essential services in the most efficient and professional manner in order to keep Clewiston clean and safe. However, there's a chance we may have overlooked a pothole or other public works issues. If you see something that needs our attention, feel free to contact us.

Purchasing:

Located at 1300 South Olympia Street, 983-1496

Utilities

Electric, Water, and Sewer:

Located at: 141 Central Avenue, 983-1454

Utilities Director Kevin McCarthy is responsible for the major utilities and infrastructure of the City. Key staff members include Office Manager Rhonda Davis, Electric Superintendent Steve Hayes, Utilities Customer Service Supervisor Terry Lowman and Wastewater Plant Supervisor John Hamilton.

Emergency Services:

983-1454 for Clewiston and Harlem—24 hour emergency power outages
(after hours call 983-1454 or 983-1474)

- Downed power lines
- Report trees or limbs in power lines
- Water or sewer problems

Utility Services:

- Customer Service
- New service & billing inquiries
- Service upgrade or relocation
- Utility payments
- Water & sewer tap fees
- *Online Energy audits*
- *Automatic payment service (APS)*

Utility Billing Includes:

- *Electricity*
- *Mosquito control*
- *Sewer*
- *Water*
- *Garbage*



Clewiston Utilities has provided electricity, water and waste water service to Clewiston and Harlem for over 50 years. With approximately 4,000 customers, we employ 26 people and operate as an enterprise fund of the City of Clewiston. The City of Clewiston does not operate its own electricity plant, but purchases all of its power needs through the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) a consortium of 29 other municipalities that operate their own electric systems. FMPA owns generating capabilities in multiple generating plants as well as having bulk power contracts with other facilities. The City of Clewiston also owns an interest in the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant that is owned and operated by Florida Power and Light. Because of participation with FMPA, the City of Clewiston has returned millions of dollars back into the community which has helped to enhance recreation, fire and police services, while maintaining a very reliable and efficient system.

Utilities, cont.



The City of Clewiston opened its new 3 MGD Reverse Osmosis Water Plant in 2008 that utilizes the Floridan Aquifer as its water source.

The City of Clewiston owns and operates its own waste water treatment plant and provides service to Clewiston and Harlem and accepts waste water from five mobile home parks located east of the City Limits.

Clewiston Utilities also provides billing for two other services of the City of Clewiston; garbage collection, both residential and commercial, and mosquito control. These services are established as part of your utility account, but are provided by the Public Works Department located at 1300 South Olympia Street and questions concerning these services can be answered by calling 983-1471.

All new utility customers must come into the Utilities Office located at 141 Central Avenue to sign up for service. A driver's license, social security number and either a rent receipt or mortgage deed showing the physical address will be required to establish an account. Utility deposits are based on two month's average bill for that residence or \$200 whichever is greater. We do accept MasterCard and Visa payments. If you have had 12 months of service with another utility some time in the last 18 months, a letter of good credit from the previous utility may be accepted in lieu of a cash deposit. Good credit history is defined as no more than 2 delinquent payments or returned checks and no forced collections or service terminations in the past 12 months of service. New accounts will be turned on the same day if the account is activated before 12 noon. Any account activated after 12 noon will be turned on the following business day. Any new construction or new service connections require a minimum of 2 business day's notification.

Utilities, cont.

Rates are based on the class of service, i.e. residential, commercial, etc. and a rate sheet is available at the Utilities Office.

Bills are due when rendered and are considered past due if payment is not received prior to the due date listed on your bill. If payment is not received prior to the due date on the bill, a reminder will be mailed to you. Service will be subject to termination if payment is not received within five (5) days of the date listed on the reminder notice. If a service has been terminated, payment must be received by 3:00 p.m. to be reinstated the same day. Reconnects will be made after normal operating hours, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, for a charge of \$75.00.

Our Customer Service personnel are very knowledgeable and can answer almost any question, however you can ask our Office Manager, Rhonda Davis, about billing questions, service questions or complaints at 863-983-1454.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES. Contact the Customer Service Department when you wish to discontinue service. Your deposit will be applied to the final billing, and if you are due a refund, it will be included with the final billing.

TRANSFER OF DEPOSIT. Your deposit, if not already refunded, can be transferred to another address if you are moving within our service area.

SEASONAL CUSTOMERS. Electric and water service can remain on but the main breaker must be turned off. There is a minimum monthly customer charge for electricity, water and sewer plus any fixed charges.

You can request to disconnect the electric and water service when you leave and pay a service charge to have utilities reconnected when you return. The charge will be added to your first bill after reconnection. This option is advantageous if you are gone for more than three consecutive months because the minimum charge for three months under the first option will be more than the service charge.

!!!!!!NOW AVAILABLE!!!!!!

ELECTRONIC DEBIT PROGRAM

The City of Clewiston Utilities is pleased to offer you a fast and easy way to pay your monthly utility bill. With our Electronic Debit Program, your utility bill is automatically deducted from your checking/savings account or credit card monthly. You save the time of preparing your monthly payment and sending it in.

With your authorization, your bank will automatically deduct the amount of your utility bill from your checking or savings account. Each month, the money is transferred from your account to our account on the date you specify. You may choose payment dates of the 5th, 15th or 25th of each month.

You can also authorize the City to deduct the amount of your bill from your credit card (Visa or MasterCard).

Upon completion of the authorization forms, a series of tests will be accomplished among us, our bank and your bank and/or credit card company. These tests will verify compatibility of our recorded information. Testing will take one billing cycle, so after you sign up expect to pay one bill in the traditional way. By your second bill, the program will be in place on your account. You'll know the program is in place when you see the statement "Do Not Pay" on your utility bill.

To be eligible for the Electronic Debit Program, your account must be free of any checks returned for insufficient funds for the last 24 months and be in a current payment status.

To sign up for the Electronic Debit Program, stop by our office and a customer service representative will provide you with the necessary authorization forms. You will need to submit a voided check if payment is to be deducted from your checking/savings account.

Clewiston Area Schools

Mission

The mission of the Hendry County School District, located in the agricultural heartland of South Florida, is to provide quality educational opportunities for our children, our most valuable resource, in a diverse, caring and safe environment, where students maximize their academic growth and achievement.

Beliefs

- Children come first in decision making
- All children can learn
- High expectations for all lead to success
- A safe and caring learning environment is essential
- Everyone deserves respect and is important to the educational process
- Open and honest communication is essential
- Improvement must be continuous and change must reflect best practice
- Education should promote responsible citizenship and ethical behavior
- Our schools are a valued investment in our children's future



Clewiston Schools

Public:

Superintendent of Schools:		475 East Osceola Avenue	674-4642 or 902-4244
Clewiston High School:	Grades 9–12	1501 South Francisco Street	983-1520
Clewiston Middle School:	Grades 6–8	601 West Pasadena Avenue	983-1530
Central Elementary School:	Grades K–5	1000 South Deane Duff Avenue	983-1550
Eastside Elementary School:	Grades K–5	201 West Arroyo Avenue	983-1560
Westside Elementary School:	Grades K–5	205 West Arroyo Avenue	983-1570
Clewiston Adult School:		1501 South Francisco Street	983-1578
Clewiston Youth Academy:		475 East Osceola Avenue	902-4216

Private:

Clewiston Christian School	Grades PK3–6	601 Caribbean Avenue	983-5388
The King's Academy	Grades 7–10	601 Caribbean Avenue	983-5388

Hendry Regional Medical Center

Hendry Regional Medical Center (HRMC) is a 25-bed critical access facility that incorporates state-of-the-art procedures and equipment to care for its patients.

At HRMC, we understand that caring for your health is a team effort. You'll find our staff to be courteous, respectful, and enthusiastic in serving your healthcare needs.

You are more to us than just a name on a chart. Our highly trained staff of employees, physicians, and volunteers will work closely to provide you with the utmost in quality care.



We know that hospitalization is never an entirely pleasant experience, but we'll do our best to make you as comfortable as possible and treat you like family. We realize that 'there's no place like home,' so if you're a patient at our facility, we'll try our best to get you home and in better health as quickly as possible.

History of Hendry Regional Medical Center - Clewiston, Florida

In 1929, a small building on the Ridge, located just west of the original Watanabe Hotel in Clewiston, was remodeled into an 18-bed hospital. The building had served as the original home of Southern Sugar Company and The Clewiston Company. The physician in charge at that time was Dr. F.L. Tatum with Dr. W.O. Rigby, Dr. Samuel Simmons and Dr. O.F. Schiffli on the staff.

The original Watanabe Hotel was demolished and a second Watanabe Hotel was built on North Francisco Avenue (on the site of the present day Elks Lodge). In 1937, U.S. Sugar Corporation purchased the building and remodeled it into the Clewiston Emergency Hospital. The physician in charge was Dr. W.O. Rigby. Later, the facility's name was changed to Sugarland Hospital, with Dr. A. B. Johnson as the chief physician. The hospital, a subsidiary of U.S. Sugar, was losing money annually and it was closed in October of 1945. Dr. Johnson maintained offices in the building, and it was used for a County Health Clinic.

Hendry General Hospital was constructed after formation of the Hendry County Hospital Authority Board and with a receipt of a federal grant under the Hill-Burton Act. The new facility opened on April 1, 1951 as a 50-bed facility and a 20-bed expansion in 1958.

In 1995, the name of the hospital was changed from Hendry General Hospital to Hendry Regional Medical Center, as it is known today.

Hendry County is one of several created in 1921 from the much larger DeSoto County. The name honors Francis Asbury Hendry, a famous cattleman and early settler. The name 'Hendry' in Hendry Regional Medical Center reflects the county it serves.

It is the policy of Hendry Regional Medical Center to admit and treat all persons without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, national origin, or religious creed. Admission requirements and assignments of hospital facilities are the same for all persons. There are no distinctions in eligibility for receiving any patient care services. Hospital facilities are available to all patients and visitors.

Hendry Regional Medical Center is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. This means that we voluntarily submit to evaluations of our compliance with nationwide hospital standards on a continuing basis. Joint Commission accreditation is your assurance that HRMC practices continuous, quality monitoring to provide you with quality healthcare.



Other Health Care & Emergency Services

Hendry County Emergency Services provides the area with ambulance service 24 hours per day, call 9-1-1.

Palm Terrace, a 168-bed privately owned nursing home, offers both skilled and intermediate nursing home care.
983-5123

Hendry Glades Behavioral Health Center offers a variety of services in Clewiston, including a day care program.
983-1423

Hendry County Health Departments, mission is to promote and protect the health and safety of all people in Hendry and Glades counties through the delivery of quality public health services and promotion of health care standards.

Environmental Health, 902-4224
1100 South Olympia Street, 938-1408

Hendry Regional Medical Center Foundation, 983-2735

HEALTH CARE:

Corporate Health	205 Gloria Street	983-1123
Florida Community Health Center	315 South WC Owen Avenue	983-7813
Dr. Karim Kaki	406 South Deane Duff Avenue	983-5453
Sunshine Family Medicine	115 South Gloria Street	983-2282
Hendry Regional Specialty Group		983-5026
Hendry Family Care Center	500 West Sagamore Avenue	983-3434

DENTISTS:

Dr. Fred Collins	205 Gloria Street	983-7361
Dr. Kurt Hausy	316 East Trinidad Avenue	983-6347
H&M Dental Services, Inc.	872 West Sugarland Hwy.	983-5600
Clewiston Dental Center	212 East Sugarland Hwy.	983-4847

ORTHODONTICS:

Edwards Orthodontics	327 Central Avenue	983-5121
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EYE CARE:

Eye Centers of Florida	820 West Sugarland Hwy	983-9105
National Vision (Wal-Mart)	1005 West Sugarland Hwy	902-9844

History of Lake Okeechobee

The **Seminole Indian** name **Okeechobee** means "**Big Water**". An appropriate name for the largest fresh water lake in the United States, occurring entirely in one state. The Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission states, "there is no place that can compare with **Lake Okeechobee**, not only for lunker bass, history and wildlife, but its size."

The lake is approximately 37 miles long by 30 miles wide, totaling over 730 square miles with an average depth of only 10 feet. To fishermen nationwide, it's renowned for the number of bass it contains per acre. Lake Okeechobee also produces more bass over 7 pounds than any lake in Florida and the United States.

Lake Okeechobee links the Atlantic and Gulf sides of Florida via the Port Mayaca Lock on the east side of the lake and the Moore Haven Lock on the lake's western side. Drainage canals lower the lake and drain adjacent lands for farming. Agricultural activities around the Lake Okeechobee area include cattle ranching, dairy farming, and crop production of sugarcane, winter vegetables, citrus, sod, sweet corn and rice.

The first embankments around Lake Okeechobee were constructed by local interest from sand and muck, circa 1915. In 1926 the Great Miami Hurricane hit the Lake Okeechobee area, killing approximately 300 people. Two years later in 1928, the Okeechobee Hurricane crossed over the lake, killing thousands. The Red Cross reported a figure of 1,836 deaths which the National Weather Service initially accepted, but in 2003, the number was revised to "at least 2,500". In both cases the catastrophe was caused by flooding from a storm surge when strong winds drove water over the 6-foot (2 m) mud dike that circled the lake at the time.



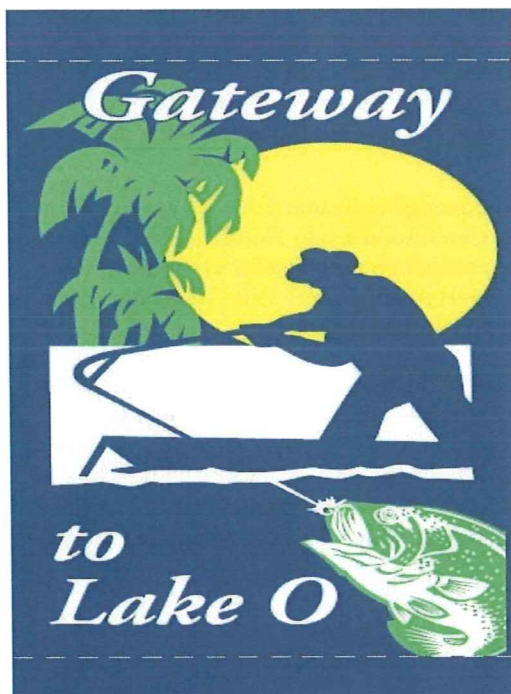
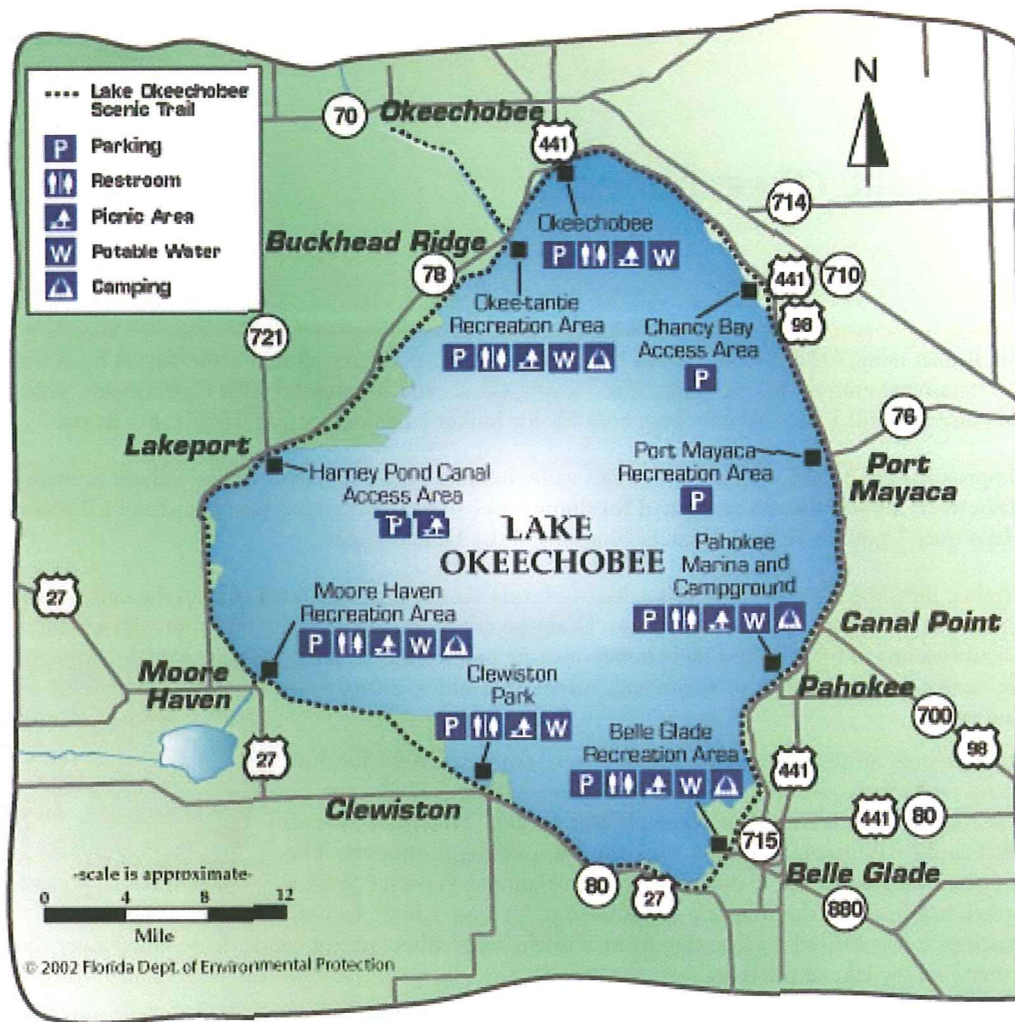
The River and Harbor Act of 1930 authorized the construction of 67.8 miles of levee along the south shore of the lake and 15.7 miles along the north shore. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the levees between 1932 and 1938.

After the two hurricanes, the Florida State Legislature created the "Okeechobee Flood Control District". The organization was authorized to cooperate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in actions to prevent similar disasters. U.S. President Herbert Hoover visited the area personally, and afterward the Corps designed a new plan incorporating the construction of channels, gates and levees. The Okeechobee Waterway was officially opened on March 23, 1937 by a procession of boats which left Fort Myers, Florida on March 22 and arrived at Stuart, Florida the following day. The dike was then named the "Herbert Hoover Dike" in honor of the president.

A major hurricane in 1947 prompted the need for additional flood and storm damage reduction work. As a result, Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1948 authorizing the first phase of the Central and South Florida (C&SF) Project, a comprehensive plan to provide flood and storm damage reduction and other water control benefits in central & south Florida. The new dike system was completed in the late 1960's and named the Herbert Hoover Dike. The dike system consists of 143 miles of levee with 19 culverts, hurricane gates and other water control structures.

Three recent hurricanes, Hurricane Frances, Hurricane Jeanne and Hurricane Wilma, had no major adverse effects on communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee, even though the lake rose 18 inches after Hurricane Wilma in 2005. Tropical Storm Ernesto increased water levels by a foot in 2006, the last time it exceeded 13 feet. However, the lake's level began dropping soon after and by July 2007, it had dropped more than 4 feet to its all-time low of 8.82 feet. In August 2008, Tropical Storm Fay increased water levels to 12.22 feet above sea level, the first time it exceeded 12 feet since January 2007. Over a seven day period (including some storms that preceded Fay), about 8 inches of rain fell directly onto the lake.





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